

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7210

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0141

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PL, VT

SUBJECT: CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI REAFFIRMS CHURCH POSITION
ON RELATIONS WITH REGIME

1. CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI DELIVERED A STRONG MESSAGE ON CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS MASS AT ST. JOHN'S BASILICA IN WARSAW. ACCORDING TO THE TEXT WE HAVE OBTAINED FROM THE CHURCH INFORMATION OFFICE HERE (PROTECT, WYSZYNSKI REFERRED HIS OWN RECENT VISIT TO ROME (NOVEMBER 18 TO DEC 12) AND TO PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS TO POLISH AUTHORITIES EMPHASIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF POLAND' OVERWHELMINGLY CATHOLIC POPULACE TO "OUR FATHERLAND." HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE PRIMARY AREA OF THE EPISCOPATE'S INTEREST AND EFFORTS IS RAISING THE YOUNG GENERATION IN A CHRISTIAN SPIRIT, FREE FROM "FORCED ATHEISM AND SECULARIZATION, FREE FROM RESTRICTIONS OF CONSCIENCE AND CONFESSION, FREE FROM RESTRICTIONS OF PRIVATE OR PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD."

2. WARNING THAT CURTAILMENT OF CHRISTIAN MORAL AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE ON SOCIETY HAS PRODUCED INCREASING
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SECULARIZATION AND LICENSE THAT COULD BRING A "SOCIAL AND MORAL DEFORMATION OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE," WYSZYNSKI POSTULATED THAT "CATHOLICS HAVE THE RIGHT TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE, AS WELL AS IN THE SPHERE OF ADMINISTRATION, AND THEY CANNOT BE LEGALLY RESTRICTED OR DEBARRED FROM IT." "A BROAD MARGIN OF SOCIAL PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC LIFE" HE SAID, " CANNOT BE REPLEACED BY ANY BUREAUCRACY, NEITHER PARTY OR ADMINISTRATIVE."

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WYSZYNSKI APPARENTLY DID NOT REFER IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE REGIME'S OVERTURES TO THE VATICAN REJECTED IN FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI'S TALKS WITH POPE PAUL VI LAST NOVEMBER, HE EVIDENTLY MEANT TO SERVE NOTICE THAT, AS FAR AS THE POLISH EPISCOPATE IS CONCERNED OLSZOWSKI'S VISIT CHANGED NOTHING REGARDING CHURCH-STATE RELATION. ACCORING TO A RECENT AP REPORT, WYSZYNSKI TOLD " A SELECT GROUP OF POLISH PRIESTS" DECEMBER 24 THAT POPE PAUL HAD "MADE IT CLEAR TO OLSZOWSKI THAT THERE COULD BE NO NORMALIZATION OF POLISH-VATICAN RELATIONS WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF POLISH BISHOPS." IN ADDITION TO MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON THE REGIME, WYSZYNSKI'S REMARKS TO THE PRIESTS AND THE CHRISTMAN MASS CELEBRANTS SEEM DESIGNED TO ALLAY ANY DOUBTS AMONG THE FAITHFUL THAT THE CHURCH'S POSITION HAS ALTERED FOLLOWING OLSZOWKI'S PAPAL AUDIENCE.
DAVIES

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